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ings rather furnish an opportunity for the exercise of a sort of editorial humor. The headings may be cheerful oases in the arid pages of historical documents, but they are rarely useful to the student.

The following headings surely indicate nothing for the purposes of research: "*A flash of private business.*" What business? "*A dash of civil affairs.*" What civil affairs? We must simply read to find out, just as we should have done if there had been no heading. Then why should we have head-lines which simply try to catch the eye, but inform no one? "*With a rinkel'd cockt'd knos.*"—"Lieut. Connelly's description of Mr. Cantine and what led to and what followed it." With a lavish use of slang the editor does, at times indicate the contents, for example: "*Rounding up dispersed and disbanded militia.*" "*General Heath shy on news.*" "*Col. Hathorn nabs four Tories.*" "*Everything serene at West Point.*" When the editor describes letters in the bilious language of the yellow journal the demoralizing effect is complete. "*The General discredits the figures—and parenthetically disposes of Washington's great victory of Trenton in 43 words.*" "*Robert Erskine's distress—His stock of pigs diminishing,*" etc.

As a collection of historical material, the completed publication will be a most valuable contribution to American and New York history. In addition to these three volumes the first volume of the papers of Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor of New York, 1807-17, was issued in 1898, and in the course of time we are promised the papers of Sir William Johnson.

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Philadelphia.

A History of Political Parties in the United States. By JAMES H. HOPKINS. Pp. 577. Price, \$2.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1900.

As indicated in its sub-title, this book purports to be an account of political parties in the United States since the foundation of the government, together with a consideration of the conditions attending their formation and development. In the four appendices are given reprints of the several party platforms, and the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1798, as well as statistics of the popular vote in the various states at the four presidential elections, 1884-96.

Over half the book is devoted to these appendices, giving material which can be found elsewhere, but which may properly be placed at the service of those who read a study of the development of parties. The first national party platform—that of the National Republicans in 1832—does not appear. Its absence is due to the same indifference

to essential facts touching party development which permits the author to dismiss the convention system with eighteen lines. The change from caucus to convention after Jackson's time is said to have been "radical and important." The "action of conventions was generally accepted as having the binding force of statute law," being henceforth "received with as ready acceptance, within their limits, as the Thirty-nine Articles or the Westminster Catechism. Loyalty to party has been demanded, as but slightly, if at all, less obligatory than allegiance to the government." Yet one does not find the explanation of the origin of the convention.

The book teems with inaccuracies of statement and inference which raise suspicions as to the author's familiarity with even the better secondary histories. For instance, the reasons for the "Bank Veto" are said to have been that Jackson was "adversely convinced upon *all* points," viz., "the solvency of the bank, as well as of its prudent and honest management; and this without reference to the validity of its charter." (P. 49.) Later (p. 55) appears the statement that the great Democratic apostle was zealous in upholding a protective tariff. The evidence produced was "the mighty oath," by which the threat to hang Calhoun was uttered. The great Compromise of 1833 is dismissed with barely three lines. The depression of 1837 is described as an "artificial panic;" the depression of 1857 is not mentioned; the People's Party is said to be a combination of the Greenback and Labor parties, with no apparent cause for existence, etc.

As a whole the work is rather a chronological table than a history. It certainly does not consider adequately the conditions attending the formation and development of the party system in the United States. The workmanship is hasty and deficient both in form and in analysis. The student of political science needs information in regard to the causes of the party system, the forces which have directed its growth and the machinery by which its functions are exercised. Such information is not contained in the book under review which adds little or nothing to statements formerly published. On the contrary, because of the lack of an adequate arrangement, some unreasonable prejudices are accentuated.

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Die Wohnungsnot und Wohnungsreform in England. By DR. FELIX VON OPPENHEIMER. Pp. viii, 167. Price, 4 m. Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot, 1900.

The movement for the improvement of the housing conditions of the poor has continued almost twenty years in Germany, and consid-